



**SPECIAL CALL MEETING
CITY COUNCIL, CITY OF HOMESTEAD
MINUTES**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2013, 6:00 PM
WILLIAM F. "BILL" DICKINSON COMMUNITY CENTER
1601 NORTH KROME AVENUE
HOMESTEAD, FL 33030

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Mayor Jon Burgess called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Pastor Travis Johnson of Life Pointe Church of Homestead

3. NATIONAL ANTHEM

The National Anthem was performed by Vanessa Di Gennaro

4. COLOR GUARD AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Color Guard was presented by the City of Homestead Explorers and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jon Burgess, Jr.

5. ROLL CALL

Vice Mayor Burgess thanked the Council, City Manager, City Attorney and staff for their support.

Vice Mayor and Council present: Vice Mayor Jon Burgess, Councilwoman Patricia Fairclough, Councilman Elvis Maldonado Councilman Stephen Shelley, Councilwoman Judy Waldman, and Councilman Jimmie L. Williams, III.

6. CERTIFICATION OF THE OCTOBER 1, 2013 PRIMARY ELECTION AND NOVEMBER 5, 2013 GENERAL ELECTION

City Attorney Richard Weiss read the title of the Certification of the City of Homestead 2013 General and Primary Elections Results as follows: Certification of the City Clerk of the City of Homestead, Miami-Dade County, Florida, concerning canvassing of returns of the Primary Election of October 1, 2013 and the General Election of November 5, 2013 and certifying results thereof.

A Motion was made by Councilwoman Fairclough, seconded by Councilman Shelley, to approve Certification No. R2013-11-95 certifying the Primary Election of October 1, 2013 and the General Election of November 5, 2013.

Vice Mayor Burgess asked all in favor? Vote: Ayes all. Motion carried.

The 2013 General Election results were as follows:

MAYOR (General Election)

Mark Bell - 1,343
Jeffrey D. "Jeff" Porter - 1,650

VICE MAYOR (GENERAL ELECTION)

Norman L. Hodge, Jr. - 701
Stephen Shelley - 1,399
Jimmie L. Williams, III - 727

COUNCIL (GENERAL ELECTION)

Norman L. Hodge, Jr. - 1,333 SEAT #4
Jimmie L. Williams, III - 1,474 SEAT #4

MAYOR (Primary Election)

Steven C. Bateman - 514
Mark Bell - 817
Jeffrey D. "Jeff" Porter - 903
Joseph G. Sewell - 198

COUNCIL

Stephen Shelley - Unopposed SEAT #1

COUNCIL (Primary Election)

Fred Byrd - 339 SEAT #4
Norman L. Hodge, Jr. - 458 SEAT #4
Ezzard C. Horn - 105 SEAT #4
Rochenel Marc - 361 SEAT #4
Jimmie L. Williams, III - 985 SEAT #4

COUNCIL (Primary Election)

Maycol "Mike" Enriquez - 169 SEAT #5
Elvis R. Maldonado - 1,298 SEAT #5
Nazy Sierra - 834 SEAT #5

On the basis of the above returns, the following candidates were declared elected to office in the City of Homestead as follows:

MAYOR

Jeff Porter, to serve a two-year term

VICE MAYOR

Stephen Shelley, Vice Mayor designation to serve a two-year term

COUNCIL

Elvis R. Maldonado, to serve a four-year term
Stephen Shelley, to serve a four-year term
Jimmie L. Williams, III, to serve a four-year term

7. SINE DIE

At this time the Councilmembers stepped down from the dais for the Swearing In portion of the agenda.

8. ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO NEW COUNCIL

Jeff Porter, Mayor, was sworn in by former Mayor/Councilman Nicholas Sincore

Stephen Shelley, Vice Mayor and Council Seat #1, was sworn in by Jenn Helms-Shelley

Jimmie L. Williams, III, Council Seat #4, was sworn in by Miami-Dade County Commissioner Audrey Edmonson.

Elvis R. Maldonado, Council Seat #5, was sworn in by Florida City Mayor Otis T. Wallace.

City Attorney Weiss asked the Mayor and Council Members to take their seats at the dais and introduced the new Mayor and Council of the City of Homestead to the public.

Mayor Porter congratulated everyone and asked each Councilmember if they would like to speak.

Councilwoman Waldman congratulated Mayor Porter and her colleagues, Vice Mayor Shelley and Councilmen Maldonado and Williams. She expressed her pleasure at serving with Mayor Porter and was looking forward to the next two years of service. She commented it was an honor to serve with Mayor Porter before on the Council and it is an honor for her to call him Mayor.

Councilwoman Fairclough commented that yesterday the community was divided, but this evening the community had been made whole. She stated she was excited to move forward with her colleagues with grit and fortitude to tackle the tough issues that would face the Council. She also stated that she was looking forward to working with Mayor Porter, Vice Mayor Shelley, Councilman Williams and Councilman Maldonado. She challenged the community to remind the Mayor and Council of the binding commitment and oath they have made. She commented that she looked forward to the challenges ahead because of the strong community that is willing to work in concert with the Council to bring Homestead to where it should be and allow the City to make headlines for the right reasons.

Councilman Burgess congratulated Mayor Porter, Vice Mayor Shelley, Councilman Maldonado and Councilman Williams. He commented he was excited and looking forward to all the great things the Council was going to lead this City through and accomplish in the next couple of years as they forge their way forward. He stated the City's staff and residents should also be excited because there are many great things that could be accomplished with the leadership that is in place today. He also commented that Mayor Porter had 10 years of experience, and felt that kind of experience would help move the City forward. He thanked everyone for their support.

Councilman Williams thanked Mayor Porter, Councilman Maldonado, Vice Mayor Shelley, Councilwoman

Fairclough, Councilwoman Waldman and Councilman Burgess. He stated the people have entrusted them again with a sacred mission to watch out for the Community and it is incumbent upon the Council to be good elected officials who put the people first and he believed this Council was that kind of Council. He also stated he was proud to work with such a collegiate body of people who may disagree, but at the end of the day, they would get the job done. He mentioned there was a lot of work to be done with a Mayor who would lead the Council in a great direction. He also thanked his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for strengthening him through this campaign, the church he pastors – Saint James African Methodist Episcopal Church - that allowed him to continue on with his work and mission, and he also thanked his mother.

Councilman Maldonado congratulated Mayor Porter and all the Councilmembers who were reelected. He thanked his Heavenly Father that gave him the strength to press on and do what he is called to do. He also thanked his daughters for their support, his entire family, friends and campaign manager for their hard work and dedication. He commented he was looking forward to the next four years to accomplish some great things in this community. He stated he was glad to be a part of this community and to make sure it goes in the right direction. He thanked everyone for their support and he mentioned he was looking forward to the next four years.

Vice Mayor Shelley stated it was great to see the support from the Community the new Council has. The theme that night seemed to be a family theme because the newly elected and reelected officials had family members present at the ceremony or were sworn in by family members. He thanked his wife Jenn Helms-Shelley for being present and swearing him into office. He thanked her for being his support in his first term of office. He also thanked the community for all of their support and trust. He commented he was looking forward to working with the Council and he congratulated all the members of the Council that were elected and re-elected.

Mayor Porter recognized City of Florida City Mayor Otis Wallace, County Commissioner Edmonson, Mayor of Cutler Bay Edward MacDougall, City of Florida City Commissioner R.S. Shiver, former Mayor of the City of Homestead Roscoe Warren, former Vice Mayor of the City of Homestead Ruth Campbell and former Mayor of Monroe County Mario Di Gennaro. He thanked Vanessa Di Gennaro for the lovely rendition of the National Anthem. He commended the voters for selecting people who could assist the City Manager in moving the City forward, and noted this Council with the City Manager's leadership, will do great things for this community. He stated he has all the faith imaginable in this Council.

Mayor Porter reaffirmed the role of the Mayor and Council and explained this government was not a strong mayor form of government; it is a manager form of government. He pointed out the Council does not instruct employees, or hire and fire employees, the Council works through the City Manager. He stated the Mayor and Council has four (4) employees; the City Manager, City Attorney, City Clerk and Auditor. He also stated the City Manager would have no interference with staff from him, and when staff hears from the Mayor, it would be through the City Manager as stated in the City Charter. He commented the Council has to go back to operating by the rules of the City Charter. He promised when the Council has an issue with the City Manager, they will speak with him directly and not through the employees.

He thanked his wife for being supportive and understanding and mentioned that family is all you have at the end of the day. He stated he was very blessed, and thanked his mother, Marlene and father, Ken, Mr. & Mrs. Sincore and his entire family. He personally expressed his gratitude and appreciation for Councilwoman Judy Waldman and Mark Goodrich who has been a real backbone for him. He commented this election became very

partisan and high profile, and he thanked the Democratic Party, especially Juan Cuba and Steve Jackson for assisting with this campaign. He also expressed his appreciation for Linda Fagan, Jessie, Eddie, the IBEW, PBA and the Pet Trust for their support. He pledged his support to assist the Pet Trust and stated he would be working with Mayor Mac Dougall and Mayor Wallace to get resources from the County to provide services in the South Dade area. He thanked everyone and mentioned he was honored with the voters giving him their trust by voting for him as Mayor, and he promised to do a good job and to rebuild the City's reputation in the county and state by representing the City honestly, openly and properly.

Councilwoman Fairclough stated she would be remiss if she did not recognize the future leaders of this community, which was the Mayor's Youth Council, a dedicated group of young people.

City Manager Gretsas commented he was overwhelmed by seeing the Council united, and on behalf of the entire staff, he thanked the Council for their leadership. He stated he felt obligated to infuse a little Greek tradition into this auspicious ceremony, so he brought a bay leaf with him, which is an important part of Greek culture and read a paragraph about the history of the bay leaf to the Council. He also stated the Council had an awesome opportunity today and for years to come to do amazing things for this community. He wished the Mayor and Council God's blessings on their journey and thanked them for their support.

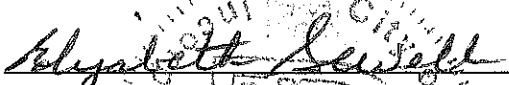
Councilwoman Waldman mentioned that City Manager Gretsas' comments were very touching. She invited everyone to participate in the placing of flags on the Veterans' graves at Woodlawn Cemetery on Sunday, November 10, 2013 at 4:00 PM and reminded everyone of the Veterans' Day Parade on Monday, November 11, 2013.

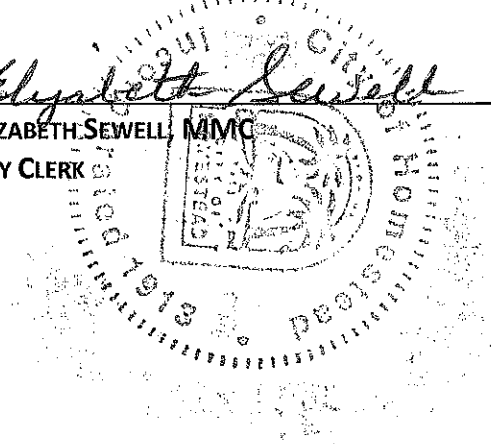
Vice Mayor Shelley thanked former Vice Mayor Burgess for the leadership and stability he provided over the last three (3) months.

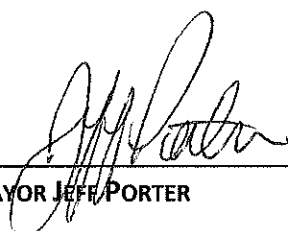
9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


ELIZABETH SEWELL, MMC
CITY CLERK




MAYOR JEFF PORTER